TO CORRESPONDENTS. All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author; not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper. Be particularly careful, in giving names and dates, to have all letters or figures plain and distinct.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personni and Literary.

-Senator Sargent of California has received from the Grand Master of Masons the appointment of orator for the ensuing year.

-William C. Bryant, Whitelaw Reid and Geo. W. Curtis will be the judges at the intercollegiate oratorical contest in New York, January 4.

-The humorous sketches of Southern backwoods character, published in the Vicksburg Herald, are the productions of James II. Sullivan, a young in Paris, speaks French to perfection, is journalist of Memphis.

pronounced by a susceptible Washing. England and any thing English. ton lady correspondent the handsomest of all the M. C.'s. "A tall, elegant dive warmly by the hand when he was really handsome man the gush gushes | Egypt no less than three times. itself."

-Whittier sent this response, recently, to a request for his autograph:

"Our lives are albums, written through With good or ill, with false or true; And as the blessed angels turn

The pages of our years, God grant they read the good with smiles, And blot the ill with tears.''

Michel C. Kerr, the new Speaker of the House, is a tall, stately man, more than 6 feet in height, broad-shouldered, which the one weekly newspaper of that with a head well poised, a full growth city labors. The editor ventured to of brown hair, and eyes that seem to suggest that the beating of drums and read you at a glance. His scholarship firing of guns was not the best way of is of the highest order; books are his frightening off an eclipse of the sun or dearest companions, and his judgment moon. The Turkish censor of the of men is keen and discriminating. The man is wholly practical. There is no element of humor or romance about inveighed against, and suppressed the him, and his manners are dignified al- article. most to austerity. He is 47 years old.

School and Church.

phia, has declined the Bishopric of Iowa, to which he was elected.

-The Cathedral of the Holy Cross, at Boston, one of the largest Catholic until the death of her granddaughter churches in this country, was dedicated that an investigation was made. Her on th 8th with the usual imposing cere-

-Among the most notable of recent events in the South was the dedication and that she might thus secure part of of the chapel of the Central Tennessee College, in Nashville. This institution, with the Fisk University, in the same city, is devoted to the education of colored persons of both sexes, and has grown with great rapidity.

-The Board of Methodist Bishops has adopted resolutions stating that all the authorities of the church which could be consulted having agreed to the removal of the seat of the General Conference from St. Louis to Baltimore; the General Conference is called to assemble in Baltimore next May.

-Cardinal McCioskey secured aid while in Rome toward the building of the Cathedral in Fifth Avenue, New York. He says that the structure will be completed before the end of 1877. He gave the order in Italy for an altar to be placed in the Cathedral at a cost of \$250,000. It will be made of the finest Italian marble, spacious, and of the Gothic style of architecture, and plentifully decorated with jewels and mosaics. The work is already under way, and will be imported before many

-The basis of union agreed upon between the Commissioners of the Metho-Churches, provided that the united church shall be called "the Methodist Protestant Church;" that the limit of pastoral service at each charge shall be five successive years, and that the ratio fired, the charge taking effect in Shaf- village schoolmaster's birthday is of representation in the General Conference shall be one minister and one layman for every 1,000 members. The of age, grandson of Capt. Simeon S. General Conference is at no time to ex- Shibles, committed suicide at Thomasceed 100 members.

Science and Industry.

-Steam is reckoned to be 90 times cheaper than manual power, 70 times cheaper than electro-motive power, and 10 times cheaper than horse power.

-Blankets of brown paper, of superior quality, perforated in such a manner as to permit a free passage for the exhalations of the body without diminishing the warmth, are advertised in London.

-American tanners are now sending the best oak sole-leather to all parts of Europe, and selling it at a profit, with orders ahead, indicating that the trade has been most satisfactory.

-Leaves of the pineapple, now being extensively cultivated in the East Indies, are turned to account by being converted into a kind of wadding which is used for upholstering instead of hair. A sort of flannel is also manufactured He was 27 years old.—Seth Clark, an from them, from which substantial waistcoats and shirts can be made.

-The Descret Silk Association held a meeting at Salt City, a few days since, a meeting at Salt City, a few days since, the head. A pistol beside him and the and authorized the purchase of a loom and employment of a weaver, with a suicide.

The man took one, and backing off a few steps—using it the while industriously—soon returned, and carefully devenue and Mercury.

Venue—Will be an evening star till July view of testing the industry practically. The experiment of silk working on a small scale has already been satisfactorily made in several parts of the Terri-

Experiments with the electric light cen been made in Russia on the rail- murmur.—Brooklyn Argus.

suggested that a small electric machine excepted, upon a footing with a goose. would serve the purpose much better the mechanism directly with the front the former in operation.

Foreign Notes.

-The Emperor William on the birth- Free Press. day of Von Molike presented the vet- I WANT TO BE AN ANGEL (ASSUNGBY THE eral General with the family Order of the Hohenzollerns, with a star and crossed swords.

-Emperor William has sanctioned the scheme presented to him for a great synod of the established Protestant Churches in Prussia, which is to convene in a few weeks for the first time.

a capital talker on any kind of subject, -Governor Walker of Virginia is and takes an especially keen interest in blizzard, the beautiful blizzard; freez-

figure, dark, brilliant eyes, and silvery received by that personage at Cairo. white hair" is the strain of this writer, They are old friends, the Prince having who adds: "When one does see a enjoyed the Oriental hospitality of

> -Japan has finally ceded the Island of Saghalia to Russia in exchange for the Kurile Islands. The Russians will first establish a penal colony on that island. The Ainos, who live there at present, will emigrate to Yeddo.
>
> - Whiffs from Ararat, a lively little

sheet, published by the American Board missionaries at Ezroom, Turkey in Asia, refers to the difficulties under press, however, decided that this timehonored and sacred custom dare not be

-A married woman named Boyon has been condemned to death at the Lot Assizes, France, for murdering her -Rev. Dr. Eccleston, of Philadel- seven children and granddaughter by pushing needles into their bodies. She had ten children, seven of whom died under twelve months old, but it was not apparent motive for this last crime was that the child might die before its father, who was in a desperate condition, his property, to the prejudice of her daughter-in-law, whom she detested. When asked how she came to think of sticking needles in her children's bodies, she said that at the public house she kept there was one day a conversation on infanticide, and it was said babies did not suffer when murdered in this

Haps and Mishaps.

-A boy named Allie Jones, 15 years of age, was accidentally shot and killed at Cincinnati by Robert Jackman, aged were mring when the accident occured.

-Wesley Cornell, aged 13, while try-

-The boiler of a portable engine belonging to William Nelson, New Harmony, Ind., exploded, instantly killing these commemorations, reaching from Thomas Nelson, engineer, Solomon En- the grandparent to the yearling babe, low, a sawyer, and badly scalding several other workmen.

-Frank Shaffer, 23 years old, while out hunting, near Seymour, Ind., was dist Protestant and the Methodist accidentally shot by a man named Boyce, who was also hunting. Boyce discovered some object moving in the brush near by, which proved to be Shaffer. Thinking it was a turkey, Boyce fer's breast, killing him instantly.

-Samuel Shibles, an orphan 14 years ton, Maine, by shooting himself with a revolver. It is supposed he committed the deed through remorse for a theft from his uncle, it being a portion of the proceeds with which the revolver (a new one) was purchased. He informed some boys with whom he was playing, that he should breathe his last that night.-Christian Wallenmeyer, a wealthy German farmer living near Evansville, Ind., went into an orchard with a shot-gun and butcher-knife, stood against an apple tree and discharged the gun in his mouth, and afterwards cut his throat from ear to ear.—Robert W. Dressen, a well known merchant of Boston, shot himself at his country residence, at Newton, Upper Falls, dying instantiv.-Charles Hensinger committed suicide by shooting He Couldn't Understand Such Extrava- 25 min.; May 21, 22 deg. 34 min.; Sept. 17, bimself through the head, at Grand himself through the head, at Grand Island, Neb.-Gustavus Duder, a German saloon keeper of Adrian, Mich., committed suicide by taking strychnine. old resident and prominent business man of Buffalo, was found lying on the ground in his lumber-yard, shot through

Odds and Ends.

-Since Brigham Young's release from placently: confinement he acts like a changed man. It is only necessary for any of his wives to hint that the fire is low, and he will folks take 'em off an' never bring 'em headlight for locomotives have re- trot out to the woodshed without a back!"

road from Moscow to Kursk, with successful results. The apparatus consist
—A goose that sees another drink will the expression of a man conscious of wery near the position occupied by Uranus do the same, though he is not thirsty. having performed an honest act, the schol. June 21 she will be stationary be-

500 to 1,800 feet ahead. It has been kind, and to put a man, feathers only

-On one block in the western part of than a galvanic battery, liable to injury Detroit there are eight ladies who won't by agitation. It is proposed to connect go to church on Sundays because a ninth lady has an India shawl and they axle, the revolution of which will set havn't. And the lady who has it won't go for there is no chance for her to show off the shawl before the eight, whose feelings she well understands .-

GIRL OF THE PERIOD). I want to be an angel.

And with the angels stand, With my "pull-back" tight around me And my possile in my hand, With my bright-hued striped stockings And my bemon-colored gloves,

I'd be the gavest angel In the celestial groves.

The following "Ode to the Prairie The Khedive of Egypt was educated Wind!" appears in the Burlington Harkeye as original, but it reads amazingly like Joaquin Miller: "Oh, the ing a fellow from ear-top to izzard: making his face as blue as a wizard; chilling the life-blood that flows from his gizzard; blowing, snowing, cold as a lizard; get up and get out of this, beautiful blizzard."

The Early Life of a Famons Poet.

Joaquin Miller has revealed some incidents in his ante-famous life to a correspondent of the Louisville Courier Journal. The poet does not know where he was born, but believes it was in Cincinnati, in 1841. His father was impecunious and wandering, and in a fit condition to take the gold fever in 1849. The family went together to California, and thence to Oregon, where the father was killed by Modoes, who at the same time took Joaquin prisoner. "They really loved me, and somehow I loved the red devils in return. Well, I was with them nearly five years, I reckon, and learned their language better than I know the English to day. Then came the Modoc war-the first one-there wasn't any speech-making about that war. It was scalps and an inscessant hell! I could have left them, if I had liked; but they were grand rascals, and I fought with them! They were going to make me a chief or somethink, and I would have been hung, if this city, unless otherwise stated: thing. They were whipped in '58, I caught." He escaped in a canoe, reached San Francisco, and soon afterward joined Walker's expedition to Nic- Feb aragua. After that exploit he studied law in Oregon and was admitted to practice. In 1861 he went gold hunting in Idaho. "I named the territory," he says; "it is an Indian word-from the says; "it is an Indian word—from the sundays, the says of the North Soshones—and sunday following the passage of the sundays. it means the 'Gem of the Mountains.' When the Government ordered the organization of the Territory in '62, the name clung to it, 'Idaho' it was, is, and will stand." He made \$10,000, and lost it in a newspaper enterprise, was elected District Judge, and got married. After this last occurrence, he "didn't have a pleasant moment for years,"

Christmas in Germany.

None know better how to make "pres-—Wesley Cornell, aged 13, while trying to close the window shatters in the second story of a school house at Logansport, Ind., fell out of the window and was fatally injured, having his skull fractured.

ents "or to invent souvenirs. For a German not to know the birth days and wedding anniversaries of all his intimate friends, and not to commemorate them by some token of affection, however slight (for the value is nothing skull fractured.

THE SEASONS.

Earth in Perihelion Jan. 2...th. 50 p.m.

Earth in Perihelion July 1...h. 31 a.m.

Autumnal Equinox Sept. 2f. 10h. 51 a.m.

Winter Solstice Dec. 21. 5n. 4 a.m.

Earth in Perihelion Dec. 31. 0h, 10 p.m. compared to the sentiment), is a barbarism, a sacrilege. In large families and extending out to all dear friends, keep up, of course, an almost continuous exercise of kindly attentions and forethought, and the Germans have quite universally a peculiar tact of clothng these beautiful little things with dramatic surprise, so as to render the "manner" infinitely more precious than the "matter." The lowliest known to all his rustic flock, and his cottage on that day is a shrine of pilgrimage to all the little feet of the hamlet. Flowers, books, cheese's, loaves of bread, embroidered slippers, chickens, geese, even young pigs, are showered upon him. He is decked with bouquets, and his humble home garlanded within and without; he is addressed in original doggerel, and serenaded with music and dancing. And thus, also, fares the village pastor; and all these things are done so heartily, so joyously, as to be evidently spontaneous, never ceremonious-as much a joy to the donors as to the recipients. Add to these domesthe Church and the State, and you can imagine that German life has holidays enough. Christmas and similar days are occasions of incredible festivities one or two days after these dates he throughout Germany. Santa Claus has no better dominion.

gauce.

"Can I take one o' them ver splinters?" inquired a frontiersman, pointing to the box of wooden toothpicks in a South Side restaurant, the other day.

"Certainly, sir," replied the polite

eashier. positing it from whence it came remarked to the amazed cashier, com-

"I don't see how ver can 'ford ter keep them things. I notice so many

up the track for a distance of from 1,- judicial, seems to be a case of the same on his every feature .- Chicago Journal. from Mars, both being nearly in line be- too often disarms him.

January.	FEBRUARY.	
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Novammer.	DECEMBER.	
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ASTRONOMICAL-1876.

[From the Chicago Tribune.]

The following are the principal astronomical phenomena of the year 1876. The times given are Chicago mean time, and the ap

Commence of the same	ALTERNACIO CONTRACTOR A
SUNDA	YS IN 1876.
n. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. b. 6, 13, 20, 27.	July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27,
rch 5, 12, 19, 16.	Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24.
oril 2, *9, 14, 23, 30, by 7, 11, 21, 28.	Oct. 6, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 11, 19, 26,

June 4, 11, 18, 25. Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. The year will contain 366 days, of which 53 will be Sundays, April 9 (marked with an

through the v	ernal equ	mnox.		
	THE N	OON		
Month.	Full M	ous. A	Veic Mon	ıs.
	cay, h.	m. d	ay, h. m	
January	11 0 3	21, a.m.	26 7 513	a.m.
February	9 11 3	51, a.m. 2	5 0 30	a.m.
March	10 0 2	2 a.m. :	5 2 21	p.m.
May	8 4 :	24. a.m. 2	3 9 35	a.m.
June	. 6 6 47	p.m. 2	4 164	D.m.
July	6 9 4	14 a.m.	0 11 24	D.m.
August	5 0 4	14 a.m. 1	9 6 35	3. m
September	3 3 2	23; p.m. 1	7 4 41	D 101
October	3 5 5	2. a.m. 1	1 4 61	2 10
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December	1 5 13	9 m 1	5 0 000	1. 100
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	Month, January February March April May June July August September October November December	THE M Say, h Sa	Cay, h m. day Cay, h m. day Cay, h m. day Cay, h m. day Cay, a.m. Sebruary 9 11 66 5 a.m. March 10 0 22 a.m. April 8 1 48 p.m. May 8 4 22 a.m. June 6 6 47 p.m. July 6 9 47 5 a.m. August 5 0 47 5 a.m. August 5 0 47 5 a.m. September 3 3 22 5 p.m. October 3 5 5 5 a.m. November 1 5 40 3 p.m. December 1 5 13 a.m. 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	THE MOON

ECLIPSES.

There will be four eclipses in 1876-two of each luminary.

1. A partial eclipse of the moon in the night following March 9; visible from every part of the United States and Canadas, if weather permit. The following are the times of the phases as seen from Chicago. Moon enters Penumbra 10th 7an p. m.
Moon enters shadow 11th 31m p. m.
Opposition in right ascension 11th 4om p. m.
Middle of eclipse 10th 31m p. m.
Moon leaves shadow 1th 31th a. m.
Moon leaves shadow 2th 55m, a. m. At the middle of the eclipse, 0.3 of the

moon's diameter will be in the shadow.

2. An annular eclipse of the sun, March 25. The annular phase will be visible on this continent only at places very near a line from Vancouver's Island to the northwest shore of Hudson's Bay. It will be visible, as a partial eclipse, from all parts of the United States and Canadas outside that limit, except in Florida. The phase will be greatest in Chicago a few minutes before 3 clock in the afternoon.

3. A partial eclipse of the moon at 3:30

4. A total eclipse of the sun at half past 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Sept. 17, not visible to any part of the American Continent. The sun will rise eclipsed to the eastern half of Australia, and the phenomenon will be visible from a large part of the South Pacific and Antarctic Oceans, the limit tic occasions the public festive days of of the partial phase passing very near the

THE PLANETS.

Mercury.—The following are the greatest elongations of Mercury from the sun. For be visible, as a small disc like burnished sil-

In the west, after sunset, Jan. 28, 18 deg.

In the east, before sunrise, March 10, 27 deg. 31 min.; July 8, 29 deg. 59 min.; Oct. 28, 18 deg. 37 min.

tion with Saturn, the lesser planet being

14, and rise before the sun during the re-mainder of the year. In the evening of Jan. 16, she will be less than half a degree south from Saturn, both being a little east from the star Delta in Capricornus. In the even-ing of March 28, she will be 1% degrees north from Mars. Her greatest elongation east (45 deg. 32 min.) will occur in the evening And as he marched out of doors with the bright stars in the feet of Gemini, and ed in a battery of 48 couples, which produced sufficient illumination to light when drinking is dispensable and preup the track for a distance of from 1. tween Pollux and Procyon. July 14 is the date of her inferior conjunction with the sun. Aug. 4 she will be stationary, near Gamma (Albena), in Gemini. Aug. 20 she will be at her greatest brilliancy, a little west of a line from Pellux to Procyon. ept. 23 she will be at her greatest western elongation (46 deg. 8 min.) and in the head of Leo. Oct. 2, at 7 a. m., she will be 1 leg. 39 min. south from Uranus, both being deg. west from Regulus; and Nov. 28, she will be I deg. 15 min, north from Mars, both

being 8 deg. as them Arista.

Mors—Will be an evening star till Aug.

12. the date of his conjunction with the sun,
when both will be in conjunction with
I ranus, and nearly in opposition to Saturn.

He will rise before the sun for the remainder of the year. During January and February he will be among the stars in the Fishes Pisces). March I, between El Rischa and Hamal. April 7, just south from the Piciales. April 24, he will pass 6% degrees botth from Aldebaran. May 11, about 1% begrees south from El Nath (Beta Tauri). July 29, south 5 a degrees from Pollux. Aug. 23, north I degree from Regulus. et. 5, south 12 degrees from Denebola, ov. 11, north 3 5 degrees from Arista; and bec. 19, north 25 minutes from Alpha in

Libra, Jupiter-Will be a morning star till May 17, the date of his opposition to the sun, and a evening star from that date till Dec. 4, then he will be in conjunction with the sun nel Mercury. He will be in the head of scorpio nearly all the year, and a very inter-sting object in the evening sky during the unmer and autumn months. At 1 o'clock a the morning of Feb. 28 he will pass just elow Beta in Scorpio, the distance between he edge of the planet and the star being only our seconds of arc, or one-minth part of the apparent diameter of Jupiter. In the morn-ng of April 5 he will retrograde past the ame star, being about four minutes of are dove it. July 19 he will be stationary in

Softern-Will set after the sun till Feb. . the date of conjunction. From that time will rise before the sun till Aug. 27, hen he will be on the meridian at mid-ight; and will be an evening star during last four months of the year, being mong the stars of Aquarius. The moon will ass directly between the earth and Saturn hree times during the year, viz.: Aug. 6— 0 o'clock p. m.; Sept. 3—2 o'clock a. m.; nd Sept. 30—5:40 a. m. The two first will e visible from Chicago, weather permitng. The rings of Saturn are rapidly closing In June the apparent length of the lipse will be to the apparent breadth nearly as 10 to 1.

Uranus-Will be on the meridian at midnight of Feb. 6, and in conjunction with the sun Aug. 12. He will be just visible to the naked eye on fine evenings, in the spring and early summer months, just under the first stars in the head of Leo

Neptune—Will be on the meridian at mid-night Oct. 26. His right ascension at that date will be 2 hours 9 minutes, and north declination II degrees 6 minutes—nearly on a line from Hamal to Menkar. He cannot be seen except through the telescope.

OCCULTATIONS. Feb. 3, from 8:40 p. m. to about 11:30 p. m., the moon being near her first quarter, will pass over the Pleiades, occulting in succession all the prominent members of the group except one. She will again pass through the Pleiades Nov. 2, from 11 to 11:20 in the evening, occulting three of the six

that are ordinarily visible.

Feb. 17, about 4:40 a. m., the moon will occult a star of the third magnitude, known

as Pi, in Scorpio.

Aug. 6, at 9:50 p. m., the moon being near the full, will occult the planet Saturn; and again at 2 o'clock in the morning of

Dec. 4, at 10 p. m., the moon will occult Gamma in Cancer, of the fourth magnitude.

Rats-How They May be Utilized.

Rats are not generally supposed to be of any particular use in the economy of nature, unless it be to eat up refuse, make a noise, or haunt the subterranean cavities of large cities. A telegraph inspector in England has, however, upon a recent occasion, proven that the rat as an operator in case of broken wires may be turned to good account. It was necessary, says the Popular Science Monthly, to overhaul a cable of wires inclosed in iron tubes. A certain length of the cable had to be taken out of the tube, and the men commenced hauling at one end, without having taken the precaution to attach to the other a wire by which it might be drawn back after inspection and repairs. The question arose how the cable was to be restored to its proper place. The inspector invoked the aid of a rat-catcher, and, provided with a large rat, a ferret, and a ball of string wound on the Morse paper drum, he repaired to the opening in the tube. The "flush-boxes" were opened, and the rat, with one end of the string attached to his body, was put into the pipe. He scampered away at racing pace, dragging the twine with him until he reached the middle of the pipe, p. m. of Sept. 3, not visible on this conti- and there stopped. The ferret was then put in, and off went the rat again, until he sprang clear out of the flush-box. One length of the cable was thus safe, and the same operation was commenced with the other; but the rat stopped short a few yards from the pipe and boldly awaited the appproach of the ferret. A sharp combat ensued, but after sundry jerks at the string the combatants separated, the rat making for the other extremity of the pipe, carrying the string through and relieving the inspector from his anxiety.

Extraordinary Bell Inscription.

The McShane bell foundry of Baltimore some time ago received an order from Prince Edward Island for a large church-bell with the following queer inscription to be cast on the metal Stranger! would you know my name, Who placed me here, and whence I came? From Baltimore I came, then know, Cast by renowned McShane & Co.; Placed here, observe, through zeal and pains Of McKenna, Rev. Father James, Assisted by the willing, able, Generous people of De Sable. I beg to add, I did arrive In eighteen hundred and seventy-five. Sixteen hundred pounds my weight is found. can be heard for miles around. I'm here the world and you to tell That I'm the great St. Joseph bell. The bell was completed and shipped

-Adversity puts weapons into man's han is to fight-back, while prosperity

to its destination a few days ago.